रेल मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधवराव सिंधिया) : (क) से (ग) सूचना इक्ट्ठी की जा रही और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Malpractices in the Manufacture and marketing of Drugs

936. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the working of the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, dealing with the manufacture and marketing of spurious drugs, the medicine licensing system and also the effectiveness or otherwise of the various agencies/authorities responsible for the inspection/testing of the manufactured drugs in view of the recent killer drug tragedy in Tata Memorial Hospital and earlier deaths due to adulterated drugs in Bombay's J. J. Group of Hospitals and in other hospitals in various parts of the country, so as to ensure maintenance of standard quality and to check malpractices; and

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof, stating the steps contemplated by Government to make the law more stringent and to plug the loopholes, if any, in the working of various agencies, to make them effective instruments in the production and marketing of quality drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The enforcement of Drugs and Cosmetics Act is the responsibility of State Governments. A statutory body viz. Drugs Consultative Committee having representatives of all the State Governments and the Central Governments advises the Central Government and all the State Governments on matters relating to uniform administration of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Act was amended in 1982 giving a separate definition of spurious drugs. The maximum punishment was enhanced to life imprisonment in cases of drugs which on use were likely to cause death or grievous hurt. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act was also amended in 1986 empowering a purchaser of a drug or cosmetic to enable to get a sample of a drug tested and to launch prosecution for violations of provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules.

Workshop on the Status of widows and destitute women in India

937. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day workshop was held in Delhi in April, 1988 on 'Status of Widows and destitute women in India'; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the workshop and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached herewith (*See* below). As for Government's reaction, the detailed report of the workshop is awaited

Statement

1. That a thorough inquiry should be instituted by the Central Government into the "poor state of affairs prevailing in the widows" Ashrams in the country, especially at Brindavan, Varanasi and Puri.

2. As majority of the widows at Banaras and Mathura are from Bengal, we urge the West Bengal government to take effective steps to prevent forced migration of the destitute women and widows to the holy places for refuge.

3. The maintenance allowances doled out to these women at the ashram is too inadequate to sustain them. It should community of property rights should be linked with the price index. Also steps should be taken to eradicate corruption and exploitation in distribution system.

4. Temporary shelter homes should be established at rural and unit levels (mohallas) to provide shelter for destitute women in crisis.

5. Inheritance of property right to the deceased husband's property should be given to the widow. Bill on community of property rights should be enacted by which a husband and wife will share all property acquired after marriage both movable and immovable assets equally.

6. There should be reservation of jobs for widows and abandoned women with relaxation of age in government services.

7. Vocational training facilities for developing and improving skills be credited along with job opportunities for widows, abandoned and destitute women.

ACTION

(a) It was further decided that a meeting in cooperation with the women's group in Banaras and Brindavan will be organised to create awareness among widows about their rights.

(b) The Samiti has decided to fight for cases in the court to get property rights for widows.

8. Riot widows should be provided with houses free of charge and efforts should be made to give them jobs with adequate remuneration, (to bring up their family as far as possible with the same standard of living that she enjoyed when her husband was alive).

9. Notices issued to the November 1984 riot widows in Delhi by DDA (Delhi Development Authority) to pay Rs. 42,000/- for the flats they were allotted should be withdrawn forth with.

The above mentioned demands were exclusively for the widows. The women meet made following demands in general as under:—

1. Shankaracharya of Puri should be arrested for glorifying Sati and violating the law of this country. All citizens are equal before law and hence Shankaracharya of Puri must be arrested under the law.

2. National Commission on women with statutory powers.

3. Uniform Civil Code to be formulated immediately on the basis of equal justice to both the sexes, taking the best offered in all the personal laws.

4. Repeal of Muslim women's right on Divorce Act.

5. Community of property rights for husband and wife.

Explanation: Sharing equally every kind of property for example, tenancy right, nomination in Insurance policies, provident fund, gratuity amounts and community property and any other acquisition brought about by "Joint Venture". The term "Joint Venture" must be defined to take into account the economic contribution of women's domestic chores. Women must be made independent share holders in the cooperatives for e.g. sugar and dairy cooperatives, they should be treated as separate entities.

6. Right of the wife to the matrimonial home, in the event of estrangement.

(b) Reservation of flats in the housing scheme for single, abandoned and divorces women and allotment of priority basis.

7. Change in the Hindu law by which no property holder can will away his property by excluding his nearest relatives such as wife, daughter, widow or daughter-in-law.

8(a). Removal of loopholes in the daughter's right to ancestral property and coparcenesary property. We request the Law Commission to draft bills in the light of our suggestions and demand that the government should introduce them in the Parliament.

(b) Single unmarried daughter as well as widow, divorcee and separated women should have right of residence in her parental home.

9. The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Dowry Prohibition Act 1961 to treat expenditure on marriage beyond the prescribed limit i.e. 30 per cent of the yearly income of the guardian of the bride or Rs. 20,000/- whichever is less be treated as dowry should be incorporated in the Act.

10. Sensitisation of police force to women concerned and to increase female police at all levels.

11. Special women's police cell at every police station to attend to women's complaint with an advisory committee of social workers.

12. Authorising women's organisations to send their representatives at the time of dying declaration in the cases of burnt cases of dowry victims.

13. Evidence Act should be amended.

14. Family courts should be established without delay.

15. The present education is neither empowering women nor is helping them to improve their self image or self confidence as individuals. Sex discrimination must be removed from the school curriculum and books.

16. Role of father should be emphasised and responsibilities of fatherhood must be propagated through education and media.

17. A regular committee to monitor TV programmes so that there is no negative protrayal of women.

18. Serial on 'Adi Sankaracharya' on TV should be televised only after it is previewed by the women organisation.

19. Central legislation banning Ammiocytasis, pre-sex determination tests resulting in female facticide.

20 (a). Role of daughter as the corollary of the parents in old age be emphasised and daughters should be made conscious of the responsibility along with their brothers to accept the responsibility of looking after their old parents.

(b) While demanding equal share in the parental property the logical corollary of sharing the responsibility of maintaining old parents be accepted by women and society.

Actions

A five member committee was set up to draft a charter of demand for the women which will be circulated to concerned organisations by Mahila Dakshata Samiti.

Efforts will be made to enlist support from different States.

It was further resolved that Mahila Dakshata Samiti would try to create awareness in the women about their political strength and urge upon to exercise their right discreatly and vote those candidates or party who would subscribe to their charter of demands.

Malfunctioning of Vital Communication link at Bombay Airport

938. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vital communication link (VHF) at the Bombay airport has been malmunctioning for quite sometime, reducing the range for contact between an aircraft and air traffic control; if so, since when; and

(b) what are the reasons for not rectifying it for smooth air traffic control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) On a few occasions during March-April this year, there had been deterioration in the performance of VHF link between the unit at Trombay hill and the Control Tower at Bombay airport, reducing the contact range between the aircraft and Air Traffic Control. Rec-